

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00100 092244Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 AF-06 /071 W

----- 088018

R 092129Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 275

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0100

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PP

SUBJECT: PAPUAN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY

REF: PORT MORESBY 0063, 0064, 0072 AND 0077

1. SUMMARY: FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY SIMON KAUMI HAS BEEN DEMOTED THROUGH TRANSFER TO SUBORDINATE POSITION IN CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE AND CHARGED WITH "DISCRACEFUL AND IMPROPER CONDUCT." TAKEOVER OF JIROPA PLANTATION CONTINUES TO BE TREATED BY PNG GOVERNMENT AS LAND DISPUTE. ERIWO CORP. WHICH REPRESENTS VILLAGERS HAS AGREED TO PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF PLANTATION AND ITS SUBSEQUENT SALE TO VILLAGERS THROUGH MODEST SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS. POLITICAL ISSUES DEFUSED FOR PRESENT. WE MAY EXPECT ADDITIONAL PLANTATION TAKEOVERS IN FUTURE WHICH CAN BE USED AS VEHICLE FOR POLITICAL ADVENTURING. GOVERNMENT TO DATE HAS HANDLED FRUSTRATIONS OVER ALIENATED LAND AND SPINOFFS SUCH AS PLANTATION TAKEOVERS WITH COMPASSION AND MODERATION. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00100 092244Z

2. JANUARY 28 POST COURIER REPORTED SIMON KAUMI HAD BEEN

REMOVED AS SECRETARY INTERIOR, TRANSFERRED TO SUBORDINATE POSITION IN CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, SUSPENDED WITHOUT PAY, AND CHARGED WITH "DISCRACEFUL AND IMPROPER CONDUCT" RESULTING FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE MADE LAST OCTOBER.

3. POLOFF DISCUSSED KAUMI AFFAIR WITH RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE, DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND LANDS DEPARTMENT. ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE HANDLED AS ELABORATELY EMBROIDERED LAND DISPUTE. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR JIROPA PLANTATION SINCE APRIL 74. VALUATION HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROPERTY WHICH WILL BE ACQUIRED UNDER LAND ACQUISITION ACT. ON JAN. 21, PNG OFFICER REACHED AGREEMENT WITH LEADERS ERIWO DEVELOPMENT ASSN. TO EFFECT, GOVERNMENT WILL PURCHASE PLANTATION FROM ALIEN OWNER, WITH ERIWO MAKING MODEST SCHEDULED PAYMENTS TO REPAY GOVERNMENT. ERIWO WILL THEN OWN PLANTATION.

4. SITUATION AT PLANTATION NOW QUIET. PNG OFFICERS BELIEVE THEY HAVE REGAINED BUNA PEOPLES CONFIDENCE. SO CALLED "ARMY" NOTHING BUT SEMI-DISCIPLINED LABOR FORCE TO WORK PLANTATION. LANDS OFFICIAL STATES DELAY IN ACQUIRING PLANTATION DUE TO SYMPATHY FOR NEARLY BLIND ALIEN OWNER, HIS BACK INDEBTEDNESS TO PNG DEVELOPMENT CORP., AND SCARCITY VALUERS TO ACCESS VALUE LAND.

5. MINISTER OF STATE FOR POLICE HAS ALLEGEDLY STATED HE DOES NOT CONSIDER ISSUE LAW AND ORDER PROBLEM. NO GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION CONTEMPLATED AGAINST ERIWO SQUATTORS.

6. LAND OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BUNA CLAN WAS WELCOMED AT JIROPA PLANTATION. STATES CLANS WERE CONFUSED BY KAUMI'S POLITICAL RHETORIC AND ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN INCREASING LAND HOLDINGS. GOVERNMENT TURNED 3,500 ACRES OVER TO CLANS THREE YEARS AGO ADJACENT TO JIROPA PLANTATION. JIROPA ITSELF ONLY ONE QUARTER PLANTED, AND CONSISTS MOSTLY OF SWAMP. GOOD LAND EXTREMELY SHORT IN AREA, AND EXPATRIATE HOLDINGS PROVIDE CONVENIENT TARGET FOR POLITICAL MALCONTENTS. KAUMI, AN EXPERIENCED PUBLIC SERVANT, KNOWS HOW TO DEVELOP ISSUES SO THAT IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 00100 092244Z

HURTFUL. TWO DAYS AGO HE STATED OTHER PLANTATIONS IN AREA WOULD BE OCCUPIED. PNG LANDS OFFICER BELIEVES HIS EFFORTS WITH BUNA WILL PRECLUDE ADDITIONAL TAKEOVERS, AND GOVERNMENT NOW NEGOTIATING TO ACQUIRE SAMBOGA PLANTATION WHICH IS LOGICAL NEXT TAKEOVER TARGET IN AREA.

7. COMMENT: WE MAY EXPECT OVER NEXT FEW YEARS CONSTANT AGITATION OVER ALIENATED LANDS. ISSUE LENDS ITSELF TO

POLITICAL ADVENTURING. ALIEN HELD PLANTATIONS SCATTERED OVER PNG MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR PNG GOVERNMENT TO PROCESS THEIR REACQUISITION IN SHORT PERIOD DUE CRITICAL SHORTAGE QUALIFIED LAND STAFF. PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN TO REACQUIRE LANDS ON GAZELLE, MANUS, NEW IRELAND, AND BOUGAINVILLE WHERE SERIOUS LAND DISPUTES HAVE ALREADY FLARED.

8. ADDITIONAL ISSUE WHICH S VZHICLE FOR POLITICAL EXPLOITATION IS IMPACT INFLATION HERE WHICH CAN BE USED TO INCITE UNIONS, HOUSEWIVES, TEACHERS, ETC. TO STRIKE, MARCH, AND PROTEST. ONCE MARSHALLED FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, POLITICAL CRITICS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT, CAN PUT THEIR OAR IN THEREBY FURTHER INFLAMING THE SITUATION.

9. AUSTRALIAN PRESS, SEEMINGLY BORED WITH RUN OF THE MILL DOINGS HERE, TENDS EXAGGERATES SUCH SITUATIONS COMPLETELY OUT OF PROPORTION. WITHIN HOURS RAG TAG GROUP OF FRUSTRATED LAND HUNGRY VILLAGERS WERE MYSTICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO SERIED RANKS OF NEW REVOLUTIONARY ARMY. VILLAGE SORCERY HERE INEFFICIENT WHEN COMPARED TO MEDIA CONJURORS.

10. GOVERNMENT POLITICAL FIRE BRIGADE, WHILE SMALL, HARASSED, AND STRECHED THIN, TO DATE HAS RESPONDED IN MODERATE AND COMPASSIONATE MANNER, AND HAS LED ISSUES BACK TO THEIR MORE PROSAIC BREAD AND BUTTER ORIGINS. OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0541
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750259/aaaacayr.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT MORESBY 0063, 75 0064, 75 0072, 75 AND 0077
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAPUAN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PP, (KAUMI, SIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006